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The Hongkong Telegraph

(ESTABLISHED 1861)

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February 14, 1918. Temperature 5 a.m. 57° 5 p.m. 66°
Humidity 88° 65°

February 14, 1918. Temperature 5 a.m. 57° 5 p.m. 60°
Humidity 78° 65°

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1918.

四拜禮 號四十月二英港香

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

UNEFT WAR PRISONERS.

Agreement between Russia and the Central Powers.
London, February 12.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, a telegram from Berlin says that the Russo-German delegates at Petrograd have signed an agreement whereby unfit war prisoners will be repatriated as soon as possible.

Similar agreements have been signed on behalf of Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey.

DASH INTO TRIESTE.

Torpedoing of the Battleship Wien.

The Daily Telegraph has received from Mr. Percival Gibson the following detailed account of the Italian dash into Trieste harbour and the torpedoing of the Austrian battleship Wien.

Venice, December 13.—There are men and deeds which shine amidst the fog of war, across its dreary routine and stalemated, like a sunbeam through clouds. Such a man, such a deed, came to light when two little ships and their crews gnawed their way through the booms and nets which guard the inner harbour of Trieste, and sank the battleship Wien, where she lay moored to her buoy, with her sister the Monarch slumbering alongside of her. A guarded harbour, steel netting fringed with mines, sentries yawning by their guns on the mole and the breakwater, and the Italian sailors, under Lieutenant Rizzo, of the navy, working at the cables of the nets within earshot of the forts and the ships till they sawed them apart and could run in and do their work! It was more than a great feat of arms; it was a task.

The Wien was one of three ships launched in 1895. Her sisters were the Monarch and the Budapest. She carried four 10-inch and six 6-inch guns, and a crew of 441 officers and men. She has owed Italy a death any time these two years. The Italians nearly got her a month ago when she was shelling the Lower Piave, and the motor-boats went for her with their torpedoes. She has, too, had other narrow escapes. Now she lies on the bottom of the Nallone di Muggia in Trieste Harbour, on a clean sandy bottom in about eleven fathoms of turquoise-blue water. Lieutenant Rizzo and the crews of his two launches—craft not much bigger than a ship's lifeboat—are the men who put her there. Lieutenant Rizzo is one of those men in the Italian Navy who make a weird specialty of "ticking the Austrian in his bed." He is thirty years of age, a Sicilian with the strong masculine good looks of his race. In charge of his second boat was a tough fire-eater of 62 years.

The thing had been well prepared after careful study of the mined area. It seemed that the Austrians had devised a system of combined nets and mines, so that Rizzo's chances were great, at the best, of being blown to pieces. One of his chief problems was that of the huge steel cables attached to the nets. But he cut these handily asunder. On the night of the 9th, when the two little boats set out, there was mist on the sea. It was past midnight when they crawled in towards the coast where lies the white city of Trieste, cascading in snowy terraces down its radiant hillside to the piers and docks of its port. The two boats crawled in towards the harbour mouth.

Trieste Harbour is an affair of three piers, "facing" seaward, making thus two channels, one to either hand of the central pier, which is also a breakwater. These channels were closed by booms and nets with their mines, all linked to the piers by the great steel hawsers. The boats glided alongside the pier, and Rizzo climbed up its concrete side and reconnoitred the situation. There was nobody on that pier. On the middle

pier, however, was the guard-room. There could be heard a confusion of voices and the barking of a dog, and from the railway station above the noise of an engine screaming vociferously, and between while the slap-slap of the feet of a sentry patrolling the middle pier. Lieutenant Rizzo crawled back and saved the order, and up came his men, crawling hands and knees over the concrete, passing big cutting tools from hand to hand. Groping their way to the cables, some set to work to cut them, while two men scouted ashore lest some sentry should arrive. I shouldn't have liked to be that sentry, with those big, wet sailors lying armed behind the mooring bollards and waiting to silence him!

The cutting instruments worked well. It only needed a strong jar to set the mines exploding, but the cutters bit their way through strand after strand of the twisted steel wire. Three cables above water were severed without trouble, then five more below water were gripped and hauled to the surface and cut in their turn. At last came the moment when the weight of the net and its attachments tore the last remaining steel strands asunder. The whole great cobweb of metal and explosives sank. The harbour lay open!

Rizzo and his men crawled back to their boats, and those boats moved like shadows into the Vallone di Muggia, where the Wien and the Monarch lay nosing their bows. Nearest lay the Wien; the Monarch slumbered 200 yards beyond her. Rizzo edged in to investigate, and then backed off till he had his enemy at 150 yards. His second boat, under the old petty officer, shifted out upon his beam to get a line which cleared the Wien's bow and commanded the Monarch's great steel flank. Rizzo raised his arm in that gloom, and saw the answering gesture of the old petty officer. It was the moment. "Let her go!" In a second four long steel devils were sliding through the water for the enemy. A roar—a blast of flame—a waterspout raining on to them—and a second roar, as the Monarch, too, got her dose! In the motor-boats the men yelled involuntarily as the torpedoes landed on their targets.

A searchlight flashed out from the Wien and sawed at the dark nets. An agitated scream sounded over the water, "Wer da?" ("Who goes there?"). There were shoutings and stampings along the deck of the wounded ship; searchlights waking along the shore and on the breakwaters; and anti-aircraft guns rousing everywhere. None in Trieste knew whence the attack had come—whether from air or sea. The sky was festooned with bursting shrapnel while ships in the harbour opened with their guns towards the harbour mouth, shelling the misty Adriatic at random. By the light of that furious illumination the Italian sailer saw the great bulk of the Wien listing towards them. By this time they were making for the harbour mouth. Shells spouted around them, but none hit them; and both boats saw, ere they left, that last subsidence, that wriggle and resignation with which a dead ship goes under.

The Monarch still floated, but the Wien lay at the bottom. The conquerors breakfasted at home. Every man of them was very hungry.

EXPORT AGONY.

The following from an American newspaper will no doubt be read with amused interest by business men:

The Inquiry.
The Search for a Low Price.
The Fight for a Reasonable Freight Rate.
The Battle for Low Insurance.
The Cable Codes.
The Censor.
The Delays.
The Mutilated Cable Order.
The Repetition of the Cable.
The Opening of the Credit.
The Rise in Price.
The Increased Freight Rate.
The Cable for Additional Money.

The Yell from the Customer.
The Export License.
The Perusal of the Embargo List.
The Headache.
The Interview at the New York License Bureau.

The Information that License is Required.
The Filing of the Application.
The Waiting.
The Additional Waiting.
The Letter from Washington.
The Statement that No License is Required.

The Additional Headache.
The Steamship Company.
The Rate Clerk.
The Arguments.
The Verbal Freight Contract.
The Written Freight Contract.
The D Enforce.
The Higher Rate.

The Sarcastic Letter of Complaint from the Customer.
The Advice How to do Things.
The Anxious Insurance Agent.
The Anxious Freight Solicitor.
The next ten Insurance Agents.
The next ten Freight Solicitors.
The Insurance Company.
The Information that Steamer is a Cousin of Noah's Ark.

The Big Premium.
The Additional Premium.
The Delivery of the Goods.
The Dock Clerk.
The Rejected Packages.
The Longshoremen.
The Strike.

The Non-Arrival of Steamer.
The Repetition of Almost Everything Mentioned Before.

The Delay.
The Request for Extension of Credit.
The Extra Loud Yell from the Customer.

The Final Shipping.
The Bills of Lading.
The Captain's Spree in New Year.

The Delay.
The Bank.
The Waiting for the Cheque.
The Cheque.
The Happy Feeling.
The Cancellation of License.
The Final Headache.

Strike at Tairen.

For some days past trouble had been brewing in the Tairen Dock-yard of the Kawasaki Shipbuilding Yard, arising out of the demand of workmen for an increase of wages. On January 26 part of the workmen went on strike and on the following day the strike spread among the other workers. There was fighting among the foremen and their subordinates, says the "Japan Chronicle." On the 29th the management thought it advisable to shut out all the workmen, fearing further trouble. This seems to have further incensed them and they put forward a declaration that unless their pay was increased by 40 per cent. they would not resume work in any circumstances. The South Manchuria Railway Company, which is greatly suffering from the strike, is acting as a peace-maker between the strikers and their employers, but so far there are no prospects of an amicable settlement. The Tairen Dock-yard is reported to employ 1,500 Japanese and Chinese.

MORE EARTHQUAKE SHOCKS.

Strange Discovery of Black Bristles.

Late last night and in the early hours of this morning there was a repetition of the earthquake shocks which the Colony experienced yesterday afternoon. Just before 11 o'clock last night several residents felt distinct earth tremors, while at 4.30 this morning many were awakened from sleep by a similar experience. This latter shock lasted for quite half a minute and was almost equal in intensity to the first tremor felt yesterday. It does not appear, however, to have resulted in any serious damage, though these fairly frequent recurrences of the disturbance caused a deal of anxiety to many people.

Many Chinese report a strange phenomenon in the discovery of numerous black bristles in the streets. These, they say, have been found in large numbers in all parts of the city—even at points as far remote one from the other as the western district and Wong Nei-choeng. Several picked up in the central district and in the neighbourhood of Happy Valley were brought to our office this morning. The Chinese do not know how to account for the appearance of these bristles on the streets, some saying that they must have fallen from the sky and others asserting that they are from the moustache of the Dragon, having been forced up through the ground! Their discovery is, at any rate, regarded among the superstitions as boding ill for the coming year.

Since yesterday the Police have received a report of the walls of the house at No. 21, Stanton Street cracking. From Yacinti comes the report that when the first shock was felt hundreds of people rushed into the streets pan-o-stricken. In the rush for safety one little girl was knocked down, receiving injuries from which she died some three hours later.

UNCLAIMED TELEGRAMS.

Eastern Extension, Australasia & China Telegraph Co.

Baker, Y.M.C.A. from Bangkok Sub.
Clark Circus, from Hanoi.
Danica, from Saigon.
Fruin Kremling, from Tientsin.
Gibson Engineer, from Sydney.
Monsha Singh, from San Francisco.
Orsine, Hongkong Hotel, from Saigon.
Vacher, from Mandinh.

J. K. GIBSON, Superintendent.

Hongkong, Feb. 7, 1918.

The Great Northern Telegraph Company, Ltd.

Yungtailong, Tungshunlu, from Shanghai.
Asanuma, Dayu Maru, from Mitsunohs.

New Dock Company, from Kobe.
Tsengkwonglan, Chungching Co., 101, Wankang Street, from Shanghai.

Itakura, Matsubara Hotel, from Kobe.
Sykora c/o Moutries, from Yokohama.

Galinet, c/o Banker Co., Deux Road, from Shanghai.
Kwonghinglong, from Yokohama.

Yunyowlong, from Yokohama.
J. KING, Agent, Superintendent.
Hongkong, Feb. 7, 1918.

YACHTING.

Royal Hongkong Yacht Club.

The fifth of the series of Club Championship Races for the Handicap Class, One Design Class, and Hayward Hays and Gael Class was called off on Saturday afternoon with the following results:—

Handicap Class.
Course:—Lyemun Beacon (P), Cust Bock Bay (P), Lyemun Beacon (P), Distance: 10.1 miles.

Yacht.	Heap on Course.	Finishing Time.	Corrected Time.
Dione	59	4.11.05	4.41.55
Holla	—	4.44.27	4.44.27

Yacht.	Heap on Course.	Finishing Time.	Corrected Time.
Jessica	1.41	D.N.S.	—
Diana	5.13	4.54.00	4.48.07

Yacht.	Heap on Course.	Finishing Time.	Corrected Time.
Colleen	7.34	D.N.S.	—
Aileen	10.08	4.55.50	4.45.44

Yacht.	Heap on Course.	Finishing Time.	Corrected Time.
(1) Dione	7	29	20
(2) Holla	5	20	11
(3) Aileen	4	18	9
(4) Diana	3	23	14

Yacht.	Heap on Course.	Finishing Time.	Corrected Time.
— Jessica	—	—	—
— Colleen	—	—	—

One Design Class.
Course:—Channel Rocks (P), Kowloon Rock (P), Mark boat on Starting Line (P), Channel Rocks (P), Kowloon Rock (P), Distance: 8 1/2 miles.

Yacht.	Heap on Course.	Finishing Time.	Corrected Time.
Daphne	Scratch	4.14.21	—
Bonita	—	4.16.25	—
Ailas	—	4.12.27	—
Halcyon	—	4.14.29	—

Note:—The points for this race have not yet been awarded owing to a protest being under consideration. The points given below are those awarded for the fourth Championship Race.

Yacht.	Heap on Course.	Finishing Time.	Corrected Time.
(1) Ailas	5	15	15
(2) Daphne	3	16	16
(3) Halcyon	2	9	9
(4) Bonita	1	4	4

Hayward Hays and Gael Class.
Course:—Channel Rocks (P), Kowloon Rocks (P), Mark boat on Starting Line (P), Channel Rocks (P), Kowloon Rock (P), Distance: 8 1/2 miles.

Yacht.	Heap on Course.	Finishing Time.	Corrected Time.
1. Dawn	—	8	23
2. Lysbeth	—	6	23
3. Lady Ursula	—	5	21
4. Gael	—	4	21
5. Toizette	—	3	25
6. Asthore	—	2	9

All yachts of these classes will compete in the events provided on the programme of the Victoria Regatta on Saturday, 16th inst.

Yachts of the cruiser class are requested to dress ship and anchor off the Victoria Recreation Club.

German Criminals at Labour Drifts.

Amsterdam, Nov. 18.—Owing to the lack of male labourers the Germans are using criminals for industrial undertakings and private employment. Criminals wearing prison clothes are now to be seen mending the roads, unloading coal, cutting potatoes, cutting and delivering wood, and tilling the land.

EARTHQUAKES.

Some Theories as to Their Causes.

Although the terrible effects which are often produced by earthquakes have in all ages forced themselves upon the attention of man, it is nevertheless only within the last fifty years that the phenomena have been subjected to exact investigation. A new science was thus established under the name of seismology and its development in England was largely due to the researches of Mr. Robert Mallet.

Accounts of earthquakes are to be found scattered through the writings of many ancient authors, but they are, for the most part, of little value to the seismologist. There is a natural tendency to exaggeration in describing such phenomena, sometimes indeed to the extent of importing a supernatural element into the description. It is true that attempts were made by some ancient writers on natural philosophy to offer a rational explanation of earthquake phenomena, but the hypotheses which their explanations involved are, as a rule, too fanciful to be worth reproducing at the present day.

The great earthquake of Lisbon in 1755 led the Rev. John Michell, Professor of Mineralogy at Cambridge, to turn his attention to the subject; and in 1860 he published in the Philosophical Transactions a remarkable essay on the Cause and Phenomena of Earthquakes. Regarding the earth as having a liquid interior covered by a comparatively thin crust, he conceived that waves might be generated in this subterranean liquid, and that such waves, by shaking the flexible crust, would produce the shock of an earthquake. His illustration of the movement of the ground is that of loose carpet thrown into undulations by being shaken at one corner. Although Michell's hypothesis is still accepted, in a modified form, by some geologists, it should be remembered that many arguments of considerable weight have been urged by modern physicists against the doctrine of a liquid nucleus and a thin crust. What ever the merits of Michell's theory, he failed to understand the true nature of wave-motion, and the way in which it is transmitted during an earthquake shock.

Modern seismologists believe that an earthquake is a vibratory motion propagated through the solid materials of the earth, much in the same way that sound is propagated by vibrations in the atmosphere. Even at the present day, after all that has been written on the subject, but little is really known as to the origin of earthquakes. Probably several distinct causes should be recognized, for it is hardly to be supposed that all subterranean disturbances, differing as they do so widely in intensity and in duration, should be referable to one common mechanism. Any great concussion, even upon the surface, is competent to produce tremors which may be regarded as diminutive earthquakes; thus the great landslide at the Bomberg in Switzerland in 1806 was accompanied by a local quaking of the ground. Volger and Mohr have suggested that some of the small earthquakes which have been felt in Germany in the past may be referred to the falling in of the roof of enormous subterranean cavities formed by the long-continued solvent action of water on deposits of rocksalt, limestone, and gypsum. Such causes, however, can have given rise to only very petty shocks, and must be quite subordinate to subterranean disturbances of a more general character.

The late Mr. Robert Mallet's theory was led to refer most earthquakes to "the snap and jar occasioned by the sudden and violent rupture of solid rock-masses, and perhaps the instantaneous injection into them of incandescent molten matter from beneath." He believed that the rupture of the rocks was due to expansion of deeply seated masses of mineral matter, consequent upon their increased temperature or diminished temperature. It is argued, however, by Mr. Mallet, on mechanical principle, that such fractures could produce only very weak impulses; but he believes that some earthquakes, especially those marked by long continued tremors, may be due to the movement and crushing of rock masses by tangential pressures produced by a solar cooling of the earth. S'eam has always been a favourite agent with seismologists, since it is clearly competent to produce great effects by its sudden generation or by its sudden condensation. It has been suggested that water, finding its way through fissures in the earth's crust, might reach highly heated rocks and remain quietly in the spheroidal condition, until a local reduction of temperature suddenly caused it to flash into steam.

After all, the origin of earthquakes is probably to be regarded as part only of a much wider question. Whatever causes are competent to produce volcanic action are, in all likelihood, equally competent to produce the ordinary manifestations of seismic energy. A relation is clearly traceable between the geographical distribution of volcanoes and the chief earthquake areas; and although it is not for a moment to be supposed that the volcano and the earthquake stand to each other in the relation of cause and effect, it is nevertheless highly probable that they represent merely different expressions of the same subterranean forces. — *Encyclopaedia Britannica.*

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph.")

THE SILVER MARKET.

London, February 11.
The silver market is quiet.

DON'T FORGET.

TO-DAY.

Victoria Theatre, 9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre, 9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinematograph, 9.15 p.m.

TO-MORROW.

Victoria Theatre, 9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre, 9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinematograph, 9.15 p.m.

Saturday, February 16.
Victoria Regatta.

Monday, February 18.

St. George's Society, Special general meeting at City Hall, 5.30 p.m.
Constitutional Reform Association, Annual general meeting at City Hall, 5.45 p.m.

Thursday, February 21.

Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Shareholders meeting; noon.

Saturday, February 23.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, Annual meeting; noon.

Monday, Feb. 25.

Race Meeting, 1st Day.
Tuesday, Feb. 26.
Race Meeting, 2nd Day.
Wednesday, Feb. 27.
Race Meeting, 3rd Day.

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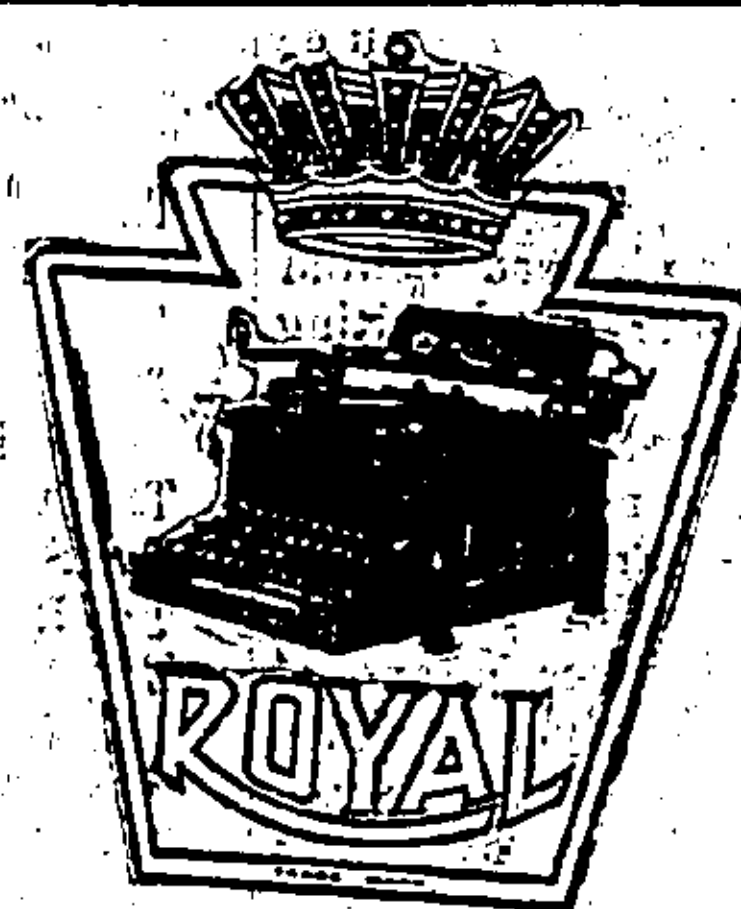
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Nectar	50	2.35
Yildiz	25	1.10
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Non Plus Ultra	100	3.60
"	50	1.85
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Superline	100	2.40
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GENERAL NEWS.

Flying Officers Killed.
Lieutenant Leader, a French
Canadian officer attached to the
Royal Flying Corps, was killed in
Kent recently while making
an instruction flight. Lieutenant
R. J. Moore, R.F.C., while carry-
ing out a flight into the Chan-
nel and was killed.

Death of the Rev. J. Olphert.
The Rev. Joseph Olphert, a
well-known Wesleyan minister,
died at his residence in Barnes
recently after a long illness, in his
78th year. Mr. Olphert, who was
born at Wigan, was a great-grand-
son of James Bennick, one of
Wesley's preachers, and was
educated at Didsbury College, and
entered the ministry in 1864.
He was secretary of the London
Synod 1890-6, and during his lead-
ing part he took in building new
churches, was known throughout
the "Connection" as "the church-
builder." After the completion
of the new church at Barnes Mr.
Olphert retired from the ministry.
He served as a Barnes representa-
tive on the National Board of
Poor Law Guardians until his
death.

Prisoner Sent to Prison.
At the Liverpool Police Court
recently the Rev. Father, Michael
Daly, 29, a Roman Catholic priest,
was sent to goal for one month
in the second division on each of
three charges: (1) having in his
possession a code capable of com-
municating naval and military
information; (2) having in his
possession for conveyance to the
United Kingdom two letters; and
(3) making a false declaration to
an alien's officer. Father Daly,
who had been in America for
two years, landed at Liverpool
recently from New York. When
asked by an alien's officer if he
had any letters for other people,
he said "No." On being search-
ed a code and two sealed letters
were found on him. The letters
had been given him just before
he embarked at New York to de-
liver to friends of the sisters in
Ireland. The code was given
him by a Father Murphy, in
America, who was interested in
Sinn Feinism and desired Father
Daly by use of the code to send
him news about the condition of
Ireland. Father Daly denied
that he knew he was doing wrong
in conveying the sealed letters
and code. He himself was not a
Sinn Feiner, and he brought the
things quite innocently in com-
plete ignorance of the Defence
of the Realm Regulations.

Pacifists in the Parks.

A resolution protesting against
the continued misuse of London
parks, "for the purpose of spread-
ing seditious and treasonable
matter at a time of the gravest
national peril, the result of which
would be to disunite the country
and to weaken the national effort,"
was passed at a demonstration
organised by the British Workers'
League and held in Finsbury
Park recently. Mr. Victor
Finch, who presided, said that
for a considerable time the
citizens of that neighbourhood
had known that their park
was being made use of by
a body of men, many of whom
were alien, not only in insigni-
fican, but also in blood, to denounce
and to defy the national effort and
to weaken the national resolution.

It spoke well for the tolerance of
the British public that those
people, had not been treated, as
they would have been treated, in
Paris or any other great capital,
with "short, sharp, and a long
repe." The British public should
make it clear to Government that
they would tolerate no longer the
preaching of treason and sedition.

Mr. Havelock Wilson said that
when the International Trade
Unions were instituted in Ger-
many they became con-
nected with the spying system.

The Germans succeeded in mak-
ing Berlin the headquarters of
several of International Organiza-
tions. Captain Tupper said that
the pacifists were not asking for
peace because they were pacifists
but because they were pro-Germans.

The German Government. The
seamen had made up their minds
that after the war they would
not go back to sea as a German
ship on the sea. Several at-
tempts to hold peace meetings in
the vicinity of the demonstra-
tion failed. On more than one
occasion supporters of the peace
came into conflict with the
police, who were making a
demonstration to the police and
the public.

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DEATHS.

WHEELER.—At Shanghai on February 11th, of Pneumonia, Sydney Wheeler, of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Shanghai.

LESBIER.—On the 13th February, Ann, Widow of the late Charles Leslie. Aged 47.

LAMBERT.—On the 15th February, at Tientsin, Theodore William Lambert.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1918.

SOCIAL WORK FOR CHINESE WOMEN.

The other day we took occasion to comment on the growing influence of women in social work in China, and showed how such an organisation as the Hongkong Benevolent Society might well serve as an example for those native ladies who feel that they can be of service to their country in aiding those who need assistance and encouragement. There is no doubt about it that great opportunities lie before the women of China in this field of activity, and as they come more into their own and occupy their rightful position in the life of the nation we may expect to see a most beneficent work carried into effect. In the past, women have been relegated to a very lowly plane in China. For all too long they have been forced the background and kept there, being denied even ordinary educational facilities and being taught to regard their opinions as of no account in any of the things that matter. There has been no inducement for them to take an interest in the social well-being of their country, for they have been given no opportunities to labour in any organised way. However, slowly but surely, education is penetrating into the inner recesses of life in China, and women are beginning to share its benefits also. The result is that they are coming to think more for themselves and to realise that a big field lies before them in the domestic affairs of their country.

As an example of what is now transpiring, we read in a Peking newspaper of a movement which has been set on foot in the capital for the establishment of a home for the poor old women there. A society known as the Charitable Association of the Women of China has been formed in order to carry out the scheme, and we notice that this body is seeking to enlist the services of all Chinese women who are willing to help, regardless of their station in life. It seems that at present there is a small home already in existence, carried on by missionaries, and that it is now intended to found a larger institution of the same kind, to be managed by Chinese ladies, with the assistance of a number of foreign sympathisers. It is said that the indigent poor in Peking are less heeded than in any other capital in the world, and it is a realisation of this fact which has prompted the desire, now to be put into effect, of providing this new home for the poor old women, who will then be relieved from the necessity of begging for a living. The idea is certainly a most praiseworthy one, and we are glad to see that many influential foreign ladies are helping forward the movement by giving their Chinese sisters the benefit of their advice and assistance.

In such a country as China there are endless opportunities for work of this character, as well as in the direction of general social reform. The task is a huge one, it is true, but a beginning has to be made, and we are glad to see evidence of woman's anxiety to have a share in it. A start might well be made in the Treaty Ports, and, in this connection we look to see the Chinese women of Hongkong taking an increasing part in work of this character. There are many directions in which their services could be utilised to a greater extent, especially if admitted in the management committees of such concerns as the Po Leung Kuk. It has often appeared strange to us that, with so many Chinese charitable institutions in our midst, miserable, ill-cared, deformed specimens of humanity should so often be seen in our streets—many of them at the same spots, year in and year out. These folk cannot possibly earn a living, and they ought most certainly to be taken care of in an institution set apart for them. In this respect the example set at Peking might with advantage be followed here, and in work of this character Chinese ladies could find a most beneficial outlet for their charitable activity.

Dangerous Houses.

The earthquake tremors which have shaken the Colony during the past twenty-four hours have revealed many defects in habitations, especially in Chinese houses, and in view of the fact that we shall soon be having the wet season with us—the period when house collapses are common—the need for inspection of structures is very urgent. Precautionary measures taken now by the authorities responsible would no doubt do much to prevent serious collapses taking place. As everyone knows, there are some very tumble-down houses in the Colony, especially those inhabited by Chinese, and the fact that the slight tremors which have been felt have been sufficient to open up cracks in many of them, emphasises the need for some steps being taken. It is certain that the foundations of a good number of old houses have been undermined by the shock, and though they may not at present give any outward indication that they have felt the strain, it will probably be found, when the wet season sets in, that any defects in construction will be greatly aggravated, with results which may well be serious. The need, therefore, for some systematic examination of old houses, and houses suspected of being unsafe, is quite obvious.

Superstitions.

The fact that yesterday's earthquake shock occurred on what certain Chinese regard as an "unlucky day" will no doubt strengthen the beliefs held by some who allow their lives and actions to be influenced by foolish superstitions. People of this type are common to all races, though of course the spread of enlightened ideas is gradually killing these beliefs except in out-of-the-way localities where the full benefits of education have not yet made themselves felt. We may smile at these Chinese who refrain from entering upon important undertakings on "unlucky days," but we have the same idea operating in the case of folk who would never think of going to sea or of marrying on a Friday. The "unlucky 13" idea is also on the same lines, and we all know what a deep prejudice some people have against this combination of numerals. Nor need we wonder that certain Chinese accept the astrologers' warnings in regard to these "bad days," for there are many people at home who pin their faith in all that "Old Moore" tells them about the future. Superstitions die hard everywhere, and that is so, we suppose, because there is a tendency to magnify any happening which appears to justify acceptance of them, whereas the thousands of times on which they are falsified are entirely overlooked or soon forgotten.

Absurd Beliefs.

We have already heard Chinese saying that yesterday's shock portends evil occurrences for China in the coming year—possibly a great plague outbreak or the spread of some other dire scourge. But what possible connection there exists between the two sets of circumstances no one professes to say. The whole thing, of course, is absurd. China may be swept by plague or some other terrible development may occur; but these things would happen just the same whether yesterday's earthquake had taken place or not. The future can very well be left to take care of itself. One of these days we shall contrive to be one of a party of thirteen at a tiffin, to spill the salt as often as we can without throwing any over our left shoulder, to take a walk down the street and pass under as many ladders as we can see, and then board a ship sailing on a Friday! It sounds like asking for trouble, we know, but we would willingly take the risk, all the same.

Alice Memorial Hospital.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—
Su Chi Jan, \$20.

DAY-BY-DAY.

FIND OUT HOW FAR YOU ARE WRONG—YOURSELF. AND YOU WON'T BE BOTHERED GREATLY AS TO WHETHER THE WORLD IS RIGHT OR NOT.

To-morrow's Anniversary.
To-morrow is the 20th anniversary of the sinking of the Maine in Havana Harbour.

The Dollar.
The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 2s 11.5/8d.

Stolen Shoes.
For stealing a pair of new shoes on a vessel in harbour, a Chinese was sent to prison for three months, by Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Magistrate's court this morning.

An Unauthorised Report.
We are requested by Sir William Rees Davies to state that the report which was published in the Daily Press of this morning from a Ceylon newspaper, to the effect that he will succeed the Chief Justice of Ceylon, is entirely unauthorised.

A Serious Fire.
Last night a fire occurred at No. 3, Bird Street, on premises in the occupation of a piece goods merchant. Though the Fire Brigade was early on the scene, the fire was not put out for some time, and damage to the extent of \$50,000 was done. This is covered by insurance.

Hockey Match.
The following will represent the H.K.D.C. in their United Services League match against the Navy at Happy Valley to-morrow, half-time at 4.45 p.m. sharp:—E. W. Hamilton, W. H. Edmonds, C. O. Hickling, F. A. Redmond, F. W. S. Evans, G. H. Piercy, J. Stalker, F. E. Joseph, K. Brayshaw (Capt.), P. H. Cobb, C. Hodgson.

The Labour Movement.
Lt. Col. John Ward, M.P., has kindly consented to address a meeting of members and friends of the Church of England Men's Society, his subject being: "The Labour Movement, Past and Present." The meeting will be held on Tuesday next, the 19th inst., in a room in the City Hall, commencing at 8 p.m.

New Year's Greeting Resented.
A Portuguese gentleman living at 25, Haiphong Road charged a Chinese before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with trespassing on his premises last night. Mrs. E. Gomez, daughter of complainant, said defendant came into the kitchen and said that when he met the man on New Year's Day he said "Kung hi fat choi," but she didn't answer. The man replied that she did not answer because defendant's wife always made trouble with her when she spoke to him. He tried to drag her outside. A fine of \$5, or seven days' hard labour, was inflicted.

Women Smugglers.
Three old women were charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with being in possession of a large quantity of opium. All the women said they were poor and were earning a few cents by carrying it. Inspector Gordon said the women had passed the examination barrier at Kowloon Station, but were followed into the train by Mr. Grieg. The women were arrested, and when searched by the female searcher, were found to be wearing padded waistcoats made for the purpose of concealing and carrying opium. His Worship sent all the women to prison for six months' hard labour.

BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIP.

Progress of the Competition.

Several games have now been played in connection with the Billiard Championship of Hongkong, which is being fought out at the Victoria Recreation Club. Mr. C. W. Hart has accounted for Mr. J. Parker, (400 to 319); Mr. S. Gray beat J. G. P. (400 to 280); Sgt. A. H. Ives, R.G.A., beat Capt. Lemmatt (400 to 391) and, last evening, Mr. E. G. Guimaraes beat Mr. A. O. Barraclough (400 to 257). Last night's winner made an exceptionally fine break of 43. The game this evening is between Mr. Ng Sze-kwong and Mr. Pokie P. Wong. All games commence at nine o'clock.

FOOTBALL.

LEAGUE DIV. 1.

R. E. V. R. G. A.

Played yesterday, the teams being:
R. E.—Clarke, Blumfield, Lucas, Charters, Smith, White, Strange, Townsend, Gordon, Horrop, Pascall.

R. G. A.—Taylor, Gretton, Dickson, Gorman, Talford, Townsend, Younman, Elgie, Watson, Baxter, Green.

Referee:—Mr. Wright.
Much interest was centred in this match, as a win for the Gannets would put them in a fairly safe position as League winners. It was quite evident that both sides were all-out to win, play throughout the game being of a robust and bustling character. There was really nothing to choose between the two teams, but if anything, the Gannets have a better balanced forward line.

Gorman put in a very fine shot from long range which Clarke managed to save, and at the other end, Gordon shot just outside the post.

Half-time:—No score.
The second half was very even, the Sappers having a slight advantage, Horrop and Townsend putting in some fine work. Strange was too well marked to do any damage, although he put in some good centres. Younman gave the Sappers' defence a good deal of trouble his good turn of speed serving him well on many occasions. Watson, the Gannets' centre, scored amidst much cheering, but he was given offside, which quite appeared to be the case. It was not long after before the same player gave his side the lead, which they retained to the end, winning by 1 goal to nil, after a very fine game.

DIVISION 2.

Royal Engineer Res. v. 83rd Co. R.G.A.

Played on the Navy Ground yesterday. The teams were:—R. E. Res.—Crickshaw, Simonds, Waller, Cuckow, Starwood, Webber, Millard, Parton, Osborne, Baker, Raikes.

83rd Co.—Gladwin, French, Atwood, Lord, Long, Wright, Dicks, Hastings, Nicholls, Panter, Cora.
Referee:—Mr. McTavish.
The Sappers kicked off and immediately made tracks for their opponents' goal, and after some pretty passing on the right, Parton opened the scoring with a good shot. It was soon evident that the R. E. were in a scoring mood for Millard dribbled the ball well up and added another goal, and immediately afterwards Osborne put them further ahead with a good shot. The Gannets tried hard to reduce the lead, but Simonds and Waller were very safe. Just before half time, Osborne again scored. Half time:—R. E. Res., 4; 83rd Co. R.G.A., nil.

Play in the second half went in favour of the Sappers, Parton especially playing a good game. Two more goals were added by Millard and Parton, the R. E. being easy winners by 6 goals to nil.

88th Co. R. G. A. v. 87th Co. R. G. A.

Played on the Club Ground yesterday Mr. Byrnes being the referee.

Play opened in favour of 88th Co. who went away in fine style, J. Jones putting in some lovely centres, which, however, were cleared well. At the other end, 87th Co. forced a corner which Phillips cleared with a good kick, which set his forwards going. After some nice passing, Watson gave his side the lead with a good shot. The 88th Co. tested their opponents' defence very severely, forcing three corners in quick succession, two of which were cleared with difficulty. The 87th Co. had a fine chance of drawing level, but the inside right missed the ball with only Martin to beat. At the other end, Taylor put in a fine shot which was well saved by the goalie. Half-time, 88th Co., 1; 87th Co., nil.

In the second half, 87th Co. played together much better and had their forwards shot with a little more accuracy, they would have at least made a draw. Sharman sent in a fine drive for

LORD LANSDOWNE'S LETTER.

View of the Earl of Kerry.

Lieut. Colonel the Earl of Kerry, M.P., speaking at a War Aims meeting at Mallock recently, referred to the letter of his father, the Marquis of Lansdowne. Everyone conversant with public affairs, he said, knew that the Marquis, as well as the spoken word, was always liable to misconstruction, and he was well aware that the letter had been so construed by a large section of the Press, that meanings had been read into the words which were certainly not Lord Lansdowne's intention to convey. At the same time he (Lord Kerry) admitted that Lord Lansdowne's views, as he read them at the time, did not commend themselves to him, and of this he had made no secret, though he might remark that he had intended to reserve what he had to say until that occasion, and that a letter which had appeared in the Press was not intended for publication. A few days after the issue of the letter there appeared in the Press a report of a speech delivered by President Wilson, and a great deal of the discussion on this matter had centred on the extent to which the aims and objects of these two pronouncements might be held to agree or to differ. There was much which was identical in both, notably in the case of the five points enumerated towards the end of Lord Lansdowne's letter, which were to be found expressed in different language, but with the same purpose, in the President Wilson's speech. There were, however, some notable passages in which he owned he should like to have seen, but did not find, in Lord Lansdowne's letter as to the determination of the Allies to secure the objects for which they originally entered this war. He referred particularly to those which dealt with that determination which was again forcibly expressed by Mr. Asquith a few days ago. Speaking generally, he thought it would be agreed that the two utterances differed considerably in tone, and that this difference in tone was mainly responsible for the difference in intention which was generally held to underlie them. Lord Lansdowne's critics must, he thought, admit that he was the best judge of his own intentions, and as far as these were concerned this question had been publicly disposed of by a statement which Lord Lansdowne sent to the *New York Times*, of which he (Lord Kerry) read the actual text, as follows:—

"I have read the President's address with warm admiration. I am in agreement with the policy which he has so eloquently described, and I notice with much pleasure that his speech contains passages which completely support the views which I have endeavoured to express."
Lord Kerry added that he had himself discussed these matters at length with his father, and Lord Lansdowne had assured him that nothing was farther from his object than to suggest a line of action differing in any way from that advocated by President Wilson, and for his (Lord Kerry's) part, he was glad to let it rest at that. Before leaving the topic he asked his friends and constituents in West Derbyshire to join with him in reprobation of the personal attacks which had been made in connection with the letter. It was one thing to differ with or to misunderstand an opinion expressed on matters of great moment on which everyone must have his own views. It was quite another to lend oneself, as so many had unfortunately done, to scurrilous abuse and extravagant misstatements such as those which had been made with regard to Lord Lansdowne in this matter.

88th Co. which the goalie saved, but just after it was handled in the penalty area. Taylor took the penalty kick, but the ball hit the cross-bar. The ball rebounded into play and was well cleared. The 87th Co. now pressed hard for the equaliser, but could not score, 88th Co. winning by the narrow margin of 1 goal to nil.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

"Sacred vision," frequent seen in the night skies during the siege of Przemysl by the Russians in 1915, had a considerable effect in boosting up the defending Austrians and demoralising the Russian artillery men. The explanation, it reflects credit on the ingenuity of our friends the enemy, visions appeared only on clear nights, and in those latitudes clouds travel at an altitude of about half a mile. By a search-light with a spiral mirror and a stereopticon it is quite practicable to project pictures to a distance of 1,000 feet, with full illumination. A generator of sufficient power off an aeroplane or a motor car would weigh less than 100 lbs. and is quite an easy load for a large machine. The Austrian aeroplanes, fitted with necessary apparatus, and equipped with the Madonna and Child, which was in their hands at the time. This plot was said to have been by St. Luke, and a wide reputation in Europe. The airman was sent to fly at from 700 to 1,000 feet below the clouds, on the apparatus as an ordinary lantern slide magnified to 185 feet in diameter. Some Russian soldiers, to fire for hours at each of these decidedly striking, and a Russian artillery officer who suspected the and ordered a battery to sweep at the "vision," had a narrow escape of being snatched by his scared men.

There is a pretty plot in relation to domestic letters of some of our battle-wielders. A South Staffordshire, now in the trenches, wryly says: "Don't forget to let me know about the health of my dear old pit-fallace. Is he still in No. 9?" The same recipient, regularly writes to men at the front, also got a note from a comrade who is in the Lincolnshire says: "We have had a big battle. Don't think it was, but when we were in the thick of the fight I was continuing thinking about my 'chuckie's' my old pal, the grey hen? I should rather own eggs." "Should" was asked.

The "terrible revolt in the German navy," as London newspapers had it, remind us of the long period which has elapsed since anything the kind happened in our navy. But the mutiny at the 1917 was a big affair with listed, the whole fleet other there taking part in with the exception of Admiral Dancour's own ship and frigates, twenty-five ships all hoisting the red flag. In that year the men of this-of-battle ships at Portsmouth Spithead had refused to honour and prepare for sea till their grievances were redressed through Admiral Bridport taken action on their behalf, sailors in the belief that the movement had not kept faith; them, mutinied again. May at the Nore, seafarers ship, firing on some boats about the put to sea, shelling the mouth of the river. The mutineers were led by Richard Parker, a Devon u. of ability though only a year, who assumed the title of President of the "Floating Republic." The mutiny was quelled a starved, a blockade and removal of all boats and boats to prevent the "Republic" from the Thames, as by the ships dropped and at the Parker's flagship, President Parker being delivered up and hung at the yard-arm. Popularity, sympathy, means; those who with the sailors, for mutiny, by, halled, is still, and a song in which President Parker's widow is made to say: "Although my life was hung for mutiny, I was hung for mutiny." There were women in the mutiny, but they were not hung, which was probably the only

Colonel John Ward a Trustee.

The meeting had been called, said Lord Bessford, to inaugurate a great guild founded on patriotism and good comradeship. It was wished to maintain and

Spring Hats in Paris and New York.

Every "Comrade" would be supplied with a card of membership and a badge by which he could be identified in any part of the world, so that he might receive any comfort and assistance that he needed, wherever he might go. For this purpose arrangements were being made to start a similar movement throughout all the dominions and colonies of the Empire. The annual subscription was to be less than five shillings (or less than five dollars) (formed of not fewer than five former service men), "branches" (not fewer than 100), and divisions (composed of representatives of poets and branches in county areas). The direction of the movement would be entirely in the hands of the discharged men themselves, the governing body being a "Grand Council," composed of delegates from the divisions. To meet the national sentiment, national headquarters would be established in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. The society would be registered under the War Charities Act, 1916, but there would be no charity or benevolent attached to it. Its chief purpose was to enable the men to obtain their due. The funds would be in the hands of three trustees—Lord French, Colonel John Ward, M. P., and himself. The Society would prevent former service men from being exploited by political parties.

No Short Cut to Peace.

M. Cambon, who spoke very quietly at first but with dramatic effect, was cheered again and again. He spoke of all that the French people had had to pass through with aces war started, and with emphasis touched on the destruction of her cities, such as Lens.

Sir Eric Geddes made a cheerful speech, and spoke of the dangers of undue optimism and the benefits of true optimism. He

Lord Derby, who replied for the Army, as Sir Eric Geddes had done for the Navy, emphasised the point that we should not delude ourselves into thinking that there would be an early peace.

Hongkong. 13th February, 1918.

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SHANGHAI, Kobe and Yokohama...	Siyo Maru Capt. Tarano	T. 12,500 WEDNES., 30th Feb., at 11 a.m.
SHANGHAI, Kobe and Yokohama...	Kitano Maru Capt. Cope	T. 16,000 THURS., 7th Mar., at 11 a.m.
NAGASAKI, Kobe and Yokohama...	Tango Maru Capt. Akamatsu	T. 13,500 SATUR., 16th Feb., at 11 a.m.
Kobe	Taisho Maru Capt. Ogawa	T. 8,000 SATURDAY, 16th Feb.
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SHANGHAI	Sinkiang	15th Feb. at 8 light.
SHANGHAI	Shantien	16th Feb. at 3 p.m.
SHANGHAI	Sunning	19th Feb. at 3 p.m.
SHANGHAI	Shantung	21st Feb. at 3 p.m.

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Hongkong February 13, 1918.

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Tibodas	Java & M'sar	28th Feb.	6th Mar.	Y'hama, Kobe
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(Projected Sailings from Hongkong.—Subject to Alteration).

For	Steamship	On
MANILA	Yuensang	Fri., 15th Feb. at 3 p.m.
SHANGHAI	Wingsang	Sat., 16th Feb. at 8 light.
SHANGHAI via Swatow	Taisang	Sun., 17th Feb. at 8 light.
HAIPHONG	Loksang	Sun., 17th Feb. at 7 a.m.
SANDAKAN	Mausang	Thur., 21st Feb. at noon.
MANILA	Loongsang	Fri., 22nd Feb. at 3 p.m.

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These steamers have excellent passenger accommodation, are fitted with Electric Light and carry a fully qualified surgeon. This line is temporarily discontinued owing to the war. Particulars on application.
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MANILA LINE.—A weekly service is maintained with Manila by vessels with good passenger accommodation, sailings from both ports every Friday.
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All European Passengers, leaving the Colony for Straits Settlements, are required to produce on arrival at destination passports with their Photographs and description affixed thereto.
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SHIPPING NEWS.

Shipowner's Fortune of £840,000.

Property of the value of £840,000, with net personalty £241,645, is left by Mr. John Isaac Jacobs, of Cumberland-terrace, Regent's Park, N.W., senior partner in the firm of John I. Jacobs and Co., shipowners and brokers, Martineau, E.C., who died at Hindhead on August 18, aged 61. The testator bequeathed £5,000 to the executors for hospital and Jewish institutions, including the Swansea Hospital, and such hospitals as they may select at Cork and Passage West, and the Home and Hospital for Jewish Incurables, and to pay not less than 100 guineas each to the Swansea Hospital, the Swansea Hebrew Congregation, and the Central Synagogue, Great Portland-street; £200 to his clerk, Joseph Oliver Cram; £100 to each of the other clerks with seven years' service whose salary exceeds £100 a year, and one year's wages to those receiving less.

Sailors and Frightfulness.

Presiding at the annual meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Lord Inchcape said there was no doubt that the Germans had it in their minds that the subjugation of Great Britain could be best achieved by the destruction of our mercantile marine. The menace was a serious one, and it was much graver than it was a couple of years ago. They were confidently assured that the high-water mark of the submarine menace had been reached, and that the tide had turned. They could only hope that this was the case. They were told that the sinking of enemy submarines was now far in excess of what it was a year ago. They might have had fewer ships at the bottom to-day if, as was urged in some quarters, their efforts had been earlier directed more to the means of protecting our ships and destroying submarines than to building ships to take the place of those that were being sunk. The frightfulness which Germany declared a year ago, the sinking at sight, had no effect on the moral of our merchant sailors. With a pluck and a bravery beyond all praise they went to sea to-day just as they did before the war, and boys came forward for merchant ships as cadets and apprentices in numbers far in excess of anything before experienced. Steps had been taken as far as possible to relieve men by giving them a spell ashore, but even those who had undergone the shock of having their ships torpedoed soon got tired of their rest and applied to go afloat again. (Cheers.)

Cracking in Concrete Vessels.
Speaking generally, concrete is practically incompressible, but offers little or no resistance to "pulling" or tensile strains. The steel reinforcement is so designed as to take up all strains of the latter kind that are or might be met with. The concrete itself looks after all the compression stresses, and as the concrete adheres, and indeed must adhere, closely to the steel it is necessary that every factor should be considered, and every part of a reinforced concrete structure built with a mathematical exactitude. There is a certain trouble, however, which is not easy to overcome, arising out of the difference in elasticity between the two substances, and the result of this is that in course of time a number of very small cracks may develop in the concrete. The question which has to be considered is as to how far the presence of these will reduce the life of the vessel, and the proportion that reduction bears to the cost of construction and length of life of vessels built of other materials. It seems beyond doubt that the presence of the cracks mentioned will reduce the life; sea water would percolate them and attack the steel work beneath. It must be pointed out in this connection that it is not certain that these cracks penetrate the concrete for any distance. It may be that they do not extend far enough to permit of water reaching the metal. Here, then, are certain problems presented to the ship-builder, the naval architect, and the concrete expert, and in the present position of affairs we cannot wait for any leader or scientific discussion. The first can build concrete vessels of large concrete which will be cheap enough, can be built quickly enough, and which will economize steel enough to justify them in being built or we cannot. If the latter is perfectly plain, and if concrete ships can be built quickly and cheaply, and if they can be built in getting on with the war.

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S.S. "ECUADOR" Feb. 27th, 1918.

S.S. "COLOMBIA" Mar. 27th.

S.S. "VENEZUELA" Apr. 24th.

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LABOUR'S WAR AIMS.

Full Text of a Historic Memorandum.

The Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress and the Executive of the Labour party, taking into consideration the desirability of formulating a definite statement of war aims and peace policy which shall express the general sense of Labour as a whole, submit the following draft which they jointly recommend for general endorsement by all sections of the British Labour movement.

(i.) The War.

The British Labour movement sees no reason to depart from the declaration unanimously agreed to at the conference of the Socialist and Labour parties of the Allied Nations on Feb. 14, 1915, and it reaffirms that declaration. Whatever may have been the causes of the outbreak of war, it is clear that the peoples of Europe, who are necessarily the chief sufferers from its horrors, had themselves no hand in it. Their common interest is now to conduct the terrible struggle in which they find themselves engaged as to bring it, as soon as may be possible, to an issue in a secure and lasting peace for the world.

(2.) Making the World Safe for Democracy.

Whatever may have been the causes for which the war was begun, the fundamental purpose of the British Labour movement in supporting the continuance of the struggle is that the world may henceforth be made safe for democracy.

Of all the war aims none is so important to the peoples of the world as that there should be henceforth on earth no more war. Whichever triumphs the people will have lost, unless some effective method of preventing war can be found. As means to this end the British Labour movement relies very largely upon the complete democratisation of all countries; on the frank abandonment of every form of Imperialism; on the suppression of secret diplomacy, and on the placing of foreign policy, just as much as home policy, under the control of a popularly-elected Legislature; on such concerted action as may be possible for the universal abolition of compulsory military service in all countries; the common limitation of the only armaments by which all the peoples are burdened, and the secure abolition of profit-making armament firms, whose pecuniary interests lie always in war scares and rivalry in preparation for war. But it demands, in addition, that it should be an essential part of the treaty of peace itself that there should be forthwith established a super-national authority, or League of Nations, which should not only be adhered to by all the present belligerents, but which every other independent sovereign State in the world should be pressed to join; the immediate establishment by such League of Nations not only of an International High Court for the settlement of all disputes between States that are of justifiable nature but also of appropriate machinery for joint and effective mediation between States in issues that are not justifiable; the formation of an international Legislature, in which the representatives of every civilised State would have their allotted share; the gradual development, as far as may prove to be possible, of international legislation agreed to by and definitely binding upon the several States; and for a solemn agreement and pledge by all States that every issue between any two or more of them shall be submitted for settlement as aforesaid, and that they will all make common cause against any State which fails to adhere to this agreement.

(3.) Territorial Adjustments.

The British Labour movement has no sympathy with the attempt made, now in this quarter and now in that, to convert this war into a war of conquest, which what is sought to be acquired by force is territory or wealth, nor should the struggle be prolonged for a single day, once the conditions of a permanent peace can be secured, merely for

the sake of extending the boundaries of any State. But it is impossible to ignore the fact that, not only restitution and reparation, but also certain territorial readjustments are required, if a renewal of armaments and war is to be avoided. These readjustments must be such as can be arrived at by common agreement on the general principle of allowing all peoples to settle their own destinies, and for the purpose of removing any obvious cause of future international conflict.

(a) Belgium.—The British Labour movement emphatically insists that a foremost condition of peace must be the reparation by the German Government under the direction of an international commission, of the wrong admittedly done to Belgium: payment by the Government for all the damage that has resulted from this wrong, and the restoration of Belgium to complete and untrammelled independent sovereignty, leaving to the decision of the Belgian people the determination of their own future policy in all respects.

(b) Alsace and Lorraine.—The British Labour movement reaffirms its reprobation of the crime against the peace of the world by which Alsace and Lorraine were forcibly torn from France in 1871, a political blunder the effects of which have contributed in no small degree to the continuance of unrest and the growth of militarism in Europe, and profoundly sympathising with the unfortunate inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine, who have been subjected to so much repression, asks, in accordance with the declarations of the French Socialists, that they shall be allowed, under the protection of the Super-National Authority or League of Nations, freely to decide what shall be their future political position.

(c) The Balkans.—The British Labour movement suggests that the whole problem of the reorganisation of the administration of the peoples of the Balkan Peninsula might be dealt with by a special conference of their representatives, or by an authoritative international commission, on the basis of (a) the complete freedom of these people to settle their own destinies; irrespective of Austrian, Turkish, or other foreign domination; (b) the independent Sovereignty of the several nationalities in those districts in which these are largely predominant; (c) the universal adoption of religious tolerance, the equal citizenship of all races, and local autonomy; (d) a Customs Union embracing the whole of the Balkan States; and (e) the entry of all the Balkan National States into a federation for the concerted arrangement by mutual agreement among themselves of all matters of common concern.

(d) Italy.—The British Labour movement declares its warmest sympathy with the people of Italian blood and speech who have been left outside the inconvenient and indefensible boundaries that have, as a result of the diplomatic agreements of the past, been assigned to the kingdom of Italy, and supports their claim to be united with those of their own race and tongue. It realises that arrangements may be necessary for securing the legitimate interests of the people of Italy in the adjacent seas, but it has no sympathy with the far-reaching aims of conquest of Italian Imperialism, and believes that all legitimate needs can be safeguarded without precluding a like recognition of the needs of others, or annexation of other people's territories.

(e) Poland, &c.—With regard to the other cases in dispute, from Luxembourg on the one hand of which the independence has been temporarily destroyed, to the lands now under foreign domination inhabited by other races—the outstanding example being that of the Poles—the British Labour movement relies as the only way of the achieving a lasting settlement on the application of the principle of allowing each people to settle its own destiny.

(f) The Jews and Palestine.—The British Labour movement demands for the Jews of all countries the same elementary rights of tolerance, freedom of residence and trade, and equal citizenship that ought to be extended to all the inhabitants of every nation. But it further expresses the hope that it

may be practicable, by agreement among all the nations to set free Palestine from the harsh and oppressive government of the Turk, in order that the country may form a Free State, under international guarantee, to which such of the Jewish people as desire to do so may return, and may work out their own salvation free from interference by those of alien race or religion.

(g) The Problem of the Turkish Empire.—The whole civilised world condemns the handing back to the universally execrated rule of the Turkish Government any subject people which has once been freed from it. Thus, whatever may be proposed with regard to Armenia, Mesopotamia, and Arabia, they cannot be restored to the tyranny of the Sultan and his Pashas. The British Labour movement disclaims all sympathy with the Imperialist aims of the Governments and capitalists who would make of these and other territories now dominated by the Turkish hordes merely instruments either of exploitation or militarism. In these territories it is impracticable to leave it to the people to settle their own destinies, the British Labour movement insists that, conformably with the policy of "no annexations," they should be placed for administration in the hands of a commission acting under the Super-National Authority or League of Nations. It is further suggested that the peace of the world requires that Constantinople should be made a free port, permanently neutralised and placed together with both shores of the Dardanelles (and possibly some or all of Asia Minor) under the same impartial administration.

(h) The Colonies of Tropical Africa.—With regard to the Colonies of the several belligerents in tropical Africa from sea to sea—including all north of the Zambesi River and south of the Sahara desert, of only those lying between 15deg. north and 15deg. south latitude, which are already the subject of international control—the British Labour movement disclaims all sympathy with the Imperialist idea that these should form the booty of any nation, should be exploited for the profit of the capitalist, or should be used for the promotion of the militarist aims of Governments. In view of the fact that it is impracticable here to leave the various peoples concerned to settle their own destinies, it is suggested that the interests of humanity would be best served by the full and frank abandonment by all the belligerents of any dreams of an African Empire; the transfer of the present Colonies of the European Powers in tropical Africa, however the limits of this area may be defined, to the proposed super-national authority or League of Nations herein suggested; and their administration under the Legislative Council of that authority as a single independent African State, with its own trained staff, on the principles of (1) taking account, in each locality, of the wishes of the people when these can be ascertained; (2) protection of the natives against exploitation and oppression and the preservation of their tribal interests; (3) all revenues raised to be expended for the welfare and development of the African State itself; and (4) the permanent neutralisation of this African State, and its abstention from participation in international rivalries or any future wars.

(i) Other Cases.—The British Labour movement suggests that any other territories in which it is proposed that the future safeguarding of pacific relations makes necessary a transfer of sovereignty should be made the subject of amicable bargaining, with an equivalent exchange, in money or otherwise.

(4) Economic Relations.—The British Labour movement declares against all the projects now being prepared by Imperialists and capitalists, not in any one country only, but in most countries, for an economic war against people has been secured, against either one or other foreign nation, or against all foreign nations, as such an economic war, if begun by any country, would inevitably lead to reprisals, to which each nation in turn might, in self-defence, be driven. It realises that all such attempts at

economic aggression, whether by protective tariffs, or capitalists' trusts, or monopolies, inevitably result in the spoliation of the working classes of the several countries for the profit of the capitalists; and the British workmen see in the alliance between the military Imperialists and fiscal Protectionists, in any country whatsoever, not only a serious danger to the prosperity of the masses of the people, but also a grave menace to peace. On the other hand, if, unfortunately, a genuine peace cannot be secured, the right of each nation to the defence of its own economic interests, and in face of the world shortage hereafter mentioned, to the conservation for its own people of a sufficiency of its own supplies of foodstuffs and raw material cannot be denied. The British Labour movement accordingly urges upon the Labour parties of all countries importance of insisting, in the attitude of the Government towards commercial enterprises, along with the necessary control of supplies for its own people on the principle of the open door, on Customs duties being limited strictly to revenue purposes, and on there being no hostile discrimination against foreign countries. But it urges equally the importance, but also the utmost possible development by appropriate Government action of the resources of every country for the benefit, not only of its own people, but also of the world, and the need for an international agreement for the enforcement in all countries of the legislation on factory conditions, hours of labour, and the prevention of sweating and unhealthy trade, necessary to protect the workers against exploitation and oppression.

(5.) The Problems of Peace.

To make the world safe for democracy involves much more than the prevention of war, either military or economic. It will be a device of the capitalist interests to pretend that the treaty of peace need concern itself only with the cessation of the struggle of armed forces and with any necessary territorial readjustments. The British Labour movement insists that in view of the probable world-wide shortage, after the war, of exportable foodstuffs and raw materials, and of merchant shipping, it is imperative, in order to prevent the most serious hardships, and even possible famine, in one country or another that systematic arrangements should be made on an international basis for the allocation and conveyance of the available exportable surpluses of these commodities to the different countries, in proportion, not to their purchasing power but to their several pressing needs, and that, within each country, the Government must for some time maintain its control of the most indispensable commodities, in order to secure their appropriation, not in a competitive market mainly to the richer classes in proportion to their means, but systematically to meet the most urgent needs of the whole community on the principle of "no cake for anyone until all have bread."

Moreover, it cannot but be anticipated that in all countries the dislocation of industry attendant on peace, the instant discharge of millions of munition makers and workers in war trades, and the demobilisation of soldiers—in fact of the scarcity of industrial capital, the shortage of raw materials, and the insecurity of commercial enterprise—will, unless prompt and energetic action be taken by the several Governments, plunge a large part of the wage-earning population into all the miseries of unemployment; more or less prolonged. In view of the fact that widespread unemployment in any country, like a famine, is an injury not to that country alone, but impoverishes also the rest of the world, the British Labour movement holds that it is the duty of every Government to take immediate action not merely to relieve the unemployed, when unemployment has set in, but, actually, so far as may be practicable, to prevent the occurrence of unemployment. It therefore urges upon the Labour parties of every country the necessity of their pressing upon their Governments the preparation of plans for the execution of all the innumerable

public works (such as the making and repairing of roads and railways, the erection of schools and public buildings, the provision of working-class dwellings and the reclamation and forestation of land that will be required in the near future, not for the sake of finding measures of relief for the unemployed but with a view to these works being undertaken at such a rate in each locality as will suffice, together with the various capitalist enterprises that may be in progress, to maintain at a fairly uniform level year by year, and throughout each year, the aggregate demand for labour, and thus prevent there being any unemployed. It is now known that in this way it is quite possible for any Government to prevent, if it chooses, the very occurrence of any widespread or prolonged involuntary unemployment, which if it is now in any country allowed to occur is as much the result of Government neglect as is any epidemic disease.

(6) Restoration of Devastated Areas and Reparation of Wrongdoing.

The British Labour movement holds that one of the most imperative duties of all countries immediately peace is declared will be the restoration, so far as may be possible, of the homes, farms, factories, public buildings, and means of communication in France, Belgium, Tyrol and North Italy, East Prussia, Poland, Galicia, Russia, Roumania, the Balkans, Greece, Armenia, Asia Minor, and Central Africa, that the restoration should not be limited to compensation for public buildings, capitalist undertakings, and material property proved to be destroyed or damaged, but should be extended to setting up the wage-earners and peasants themselves in homes and employment, and that to ensure the full and impartial application of these principles the assessment and distribution of the compensation so far as the cost is contributed by any international fund should be made under the direction of an International Commission.

But the British Labour movement will not be satisfied unless a full and free judicial investigation into the accusations so freely made on all sides that particular Governments have ordered, and particular officers have exercised acts of cruelty, oppression, violence, and theft against individual victims, for which no justification can be found in the ordinary usages of war. It draws attention in particular to the loss of life and property of merchant seamen and other non-combatants (including women and children) resulting from this inhuman and ruthless conduct. It should be part of the conditions of peace that there should be forthwith set up a Court of Claims and accusations, which should investigate all such allegations as may be brought before it, summon the accused person or Government to answer the complaints, to pronounce judgment, and award compensation of damages payable by the individual or Government concerned, to the persons who had suffered wrong, or to their dependents. The several Governments must be responsible, financially and otherwise, for the presentation of the cases of their respective nationals to such a Court of Claims and Accusations.

Helping the Southern Revolution.

Chinese associations in Washington have sent \$120,000 in cash to the Revolutionary Government in Southern China.

Soldiers Saved by Inoculation.

Sir Samuel Evans, in his presidential address to the Medical Society at 11, Chandos Street, W., last night, said that never before in the history of the war of the world had the fighting men been so well helped and cared for by doctors, surgeons, nurses, and all who formed part of the medical services. It was calculated that the number of soldiers belonging to the Allied forces who had been saved from the risks and ravages of typhoid and kindred diseases by inoculation could be reckoned by scores of millions.

LABOUR AND PEACE PROBLEMS.

Need to Face Facts.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, M. P., and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, M. P., recently attended a meeting in the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, to discuss reconstruction and the future of trade unionism. The gathering was preliminary to the Railwaysmen's Conference.

Mr. Thomas said that after the world conflict there would be problems to face which labour could not anticipate. The only way to deal with the situation was to hold conferences such as the railwaysmen were holding fairly and squarely to face the facts. Referring to railway difficulties, he said that it was well known that the men's executive were negotiating for more money. The executive were meeting the companies again that day, and it was fair to say that the former were not unmindful of their obligations to the workers. He believed that before a week was over a settlement would be arrived at. Any more threats of striking or anything of that sort instead of helping would hamper the whole situation. (Cheers.)

The private soldier was punished for breach of discipline or incompetence. Why was not incompetence at the top dealt with as it was at the bottom? (Cheers.) We wanted a fair deal with our generals as well as with the rank and file. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald said that those of them who ventured to lift up their eyes to the Cross as the symbol of Christianity, even though they might have no dogmatic faith, were insulted and called pro-Germans. They were, however, the best representatives of pro-Englishmen that existed to-day, the army that was going to save the nation and to make militarism and all its crimes outcasts, not only in Berlin, but in London. (Cheers.) Those, like himself, who were the most optimistic could not at the moment see any way to peace. He wanted to end the war properly and quickly. War weariness was the worst end that could come. He wanted to end the war by a noble, intelligent, humane, brave, and just peace, with wide-awake war alertness.

SCANDINAVIAN TIES.

Starvation Rather Than Severance.

Copenhagen, November 17.—The announcement that a meeting of the Scandinavian Monarchs is to be held at Christiania has come as a surprise. A conference of Ministers at Copenhagen was expected. The newspapers write that it is commonly written on such occasions. As a matter of fact, the public is not interested in the meeting of the King, and is wholly absorbed in the problem of providing the necessities of life.

During recent debates in the Norwegian Storting when the Administration was charged with serious mismanagement of the negotiations for imports of foodstuffs, and regarding measures for bread rationing, the Prime Minister, M. Knudsen, referred to the possibility of drawing upon Denmark's abundance of grain. At the first signs of opposition here it was explained that M. Knudsen's declaration was a subterfuge resorted to in order to meet a difficult Parliamentary situation. Another statement was made in responsible Danish quarters to the effect that, although an abundance did not exist in Denmark, the people should support their Scandinavian brothers when they were really distressed, even if their own rationing had to be relaxed.

These statements, of course, were received with mixed feelings at a time when a further reduction of the small wheaten bread allowances had been already announced, when the production of butter had declined 15 per cent, and butter was permitted only about half a

COMPANY MEETING.

The China Fire Insurance Company, Ltd.

[VERBATIM]

An extraordinary general meeting of the China Fire Insurance Company, Ltd., was held at the head offices of the Company, Queen's Buildings, this morning, for the purpose of amending the Company's Memorandum of Association. The Hon. Mr. P. H. Helyar, president, and there were also present Messrs. S. H. Dodwell, A. Forbes, and A. O. Long, (directors), C. Montague Ede, (General Manager), and E. B. Thomas, P. M. Hodgson, W. B. Mansfield, V. L. Remedios, A. E. S. Alves, A. A. Alves, J. Gardner, W. Gardner, V. R. V. Ribeiro, M. A. R. Sora, and B. M. O. da Cunha, (shareholders).

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen.—The hour for which this meeting has been called is past, and I will ask the General Manager to read the notice convening the meeting.

The General Manager having read the notice,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen.—The object of the alterations of the provisions of the Company's Memorandum of Association as provided in the terms of the Resolution which you have just heard read is to equip this Company with the increased powers necessary to enable it to maintain its position among other Companies engaged in similar businesses and to bring this Company's Memorandum of Association into line with that of its allied Companies the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., and the British Traders Insurance Company, Ltd., whose similar alterations have recently been made. All shareholders have been sent notice of the resolution together with copies of the Memorandum of Association in its present form and the proposed alterations thereto. I will now move that the following Resolution be adopted:—"That the provisions of the Company's Memorandum of Association with respect to its objects be altered so as to read as shown in the print signed for the purpose of identification by the Chairman of the meeting."

Mr. Forbes:—I beg to second that.

The Chairman:—Those in favour of this resolution? Carried unanimously. That is all the business, gentlemen. A company meeting will be held on March 14 at half past twelve.

\$50,000 for Treatment of Disabled Men.

Mr. Hodge, Minister of Pensions, recently received from a Manchester gentleman who desires to remain anonymous, an intimation of his readiness to subscribe \$50,000 towards the cost of a substantial apartment of disabled sailors and soldiers discharged from the forces in consequence of disabilities arising from the present war.

pound to be consumed weekly per head were expected to be issued in December, and when fat was hardly procurable.

In such circumstances the Washington message that negotiations were in progress between the United States and neutrals for the export of foodstuffs caused lively interest in the statements, which, however, were so vague that it was impossible as to the future. Still no objections have been made to the suggestion that Denmark should assist Norway. The Danish people apparently agree with the statement of the President of the Norwegian Storting, Mr. Mowinkel, namely, that the choice lay between agreement with America and a bread shortage in Scandinavia. The latter was better to starve than to agree.

SMOKED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

NEVSKY PROSPECT
PETROGRAD

The "Three Castles" Cigarettes

Just Pure Rich Mellow
Virginia Tobacco

THE CIGARETTE WITH THE PEDIGREE

IF YOU SMOKE A PIPE OF COURSE YOU SMOKE "CAPSTAN NAVY CUT"

POST OFFICE.

The Parcel Post Service to British East Africa and Egypt (except for members of the Expeditionary Forces), and to Abyssinia, Bagdad, Brithree, French Somaliland, Italian Somaliland, Portuguese East Africa, Zanzibar and Russia have been suspended.

Correspondence addressed to enemy subjects in China, Siam, Siberia and Portuguese East Africa, Persia and Morocco cannot be transmitted.

The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

Uninsured parcels for the United Kingdom will in future be forwarded from Hongkong in bags and the Public are therefore advised to pack such parcels very carefully.

Letters franked at the 4 cents rate addressed to Yunnan and Meigao and other places in the Province of Yunnan should be superscribed with the words "For delivery by the Chinese Post Office."

Parcels for Greece cannot be accepted for transmission unless accompanied by a special permit issued by the British Minister at Athens.

Arrangements have been made for the transmission of parcels to the United Kingdom via Canada.

The rates of postage are as follows:—
Parcel not over 5 lbs. . . . 90 cents.
Do. 7 lbs. . . . \$1.80
Do. 11 lbs. . . . 2.70

No insurance can be effected on parcels sent by this route.

IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

The Public are informed that the undermentioned articles are prohibited from importation into the United Kingdom, either by letter post or by parcel post:—

Gold manufactured or unmanufactured including gold coin and articles consisting partly of or containing gold; All manufactures of Silver other than silver watches and silver watch cases; Jewellery of any description.

Letters and Parcels containing such articles cannot therefore be accepted for transmission by the Post Office.

The Parcel Post service to Aden (except in respect of parcels for military and naval addresses) has been suspended.

FRENCH PARCEL REGULATIONS.

The Public are informed that the new regulations, adopted by the French Customs, which require that all parcels addressed to France, Corsica and Algeria must all in the columns of the regular Customs Declaration particularly and exactly, omitting none of the headings comprised therein.

It is furthermore absolutely necessary to show in the declaration (1) The full name and address of the addressee (2) A statement as to whether the contents are intended for State supplies or not.

LOCAL AND REGULAR MAILS OUTWARD.

Tai O.—Week days, 5 p.m.
Tai Po.—Week days, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 9.30 a.m.
Cheung Chow.—Week days, 7.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Shatouk; Shatin and Sheungahui.—Week days, 4 p.m.
Aberdeen, Aikoi, Ping Shan, Sai Kung, San Tin and Stanley.—Week days, 4.30 p.m.
Canton, Samshui, and Wuchow.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.; Registration 5 p.m.; Letters 6 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.
Macao.—Week days, 7.15 a.m., 1.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.
Hongkong.—Week days, 6 p.m. Except Saturdays; Sundays, 5 p.m.
Samtau and Sammal.—Week days, 5 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.
Shamshui.—Week days, 10 a.m., 4 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.

FROM SHEUNGWAN WESTERN BRANCH P.O.

Macao.—Week days, 7.30 a.m., 1.30 p.m.; Sundays, 8.30 a.m.; Holidays, 7.30 a.m.
Canton.—Week days, 7.30 a.m., 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 7.30 a.m., 9.30 p.m.
Tai Ping Tung.—Week days, 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 9.30 p.m.
Black Hill.—Week days, 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 9.30 p.m.
Kowloon.—Week days, 6 p.m.; Sundays, 6 p.m.; Holidays, 6 p.m.
Kumchuck.—Week days, 6 p.m.; Sundays, 6 p.m.; Holidays, 6 p.m.
Kaukung.—Week days, 6 p.m.; Except Saturdays; Sundays, 6 p.m.; Holidays, 6 p.m.

WEATHER REPORT.

February 14d. 12h. 07m.—Returns are lacking from the majority of stations this morning, and no weather map will be issued.

Pressure has given way slightly at stations surrounding the China Sea; the anticyclone has probably continued to weaken.

Fresh to moderate monsoon may be expected along the China Coast, and over the N. China Sea.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inch. Total since January 1st 0.1 inch against an average of 2.24 inches.

FORECAST FOR THE 24 HOURS ENDING AT NOON TO-MORROW.

Station.	Hour.	Barometer.	Temperature.	Humidity.	Winds.	Weather.
1 Hongkong to Gap Hook					N.E. winds, fresh to moderate; fine.	
2 Formosa Channel					N. winds, fresh.	
3 South coast of China between H.K. and Lamook					The same as No. 1.	
4 South coast of China between H.K. and Hainan					The same as No. 1.	

China Coast Meteorological Register, February 14, a.m.

Station.	Hour.	Barom.	Tempera.	Humid.	Wind.	Force.	Weather.
Vostoek	6a						
Nemuro	5a						
Nakadate							
Utsio							
Kochi							
Nagasaki							
Yokohama							
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